CLAIMS

I claim:

1. A wire stop for use with a multi-strand steel cable, the wire stop comprising:

an outer body with a central opening extending therethrough;

a plurality of cable engaging wedges sized and adapted to be received in the central opening, the central opening and/or the plurality of cable engaging wedges being tapered so as to clamp the wedges tightly to the steel cable when a tensile load is placed on the steel cable.

2. A wire stop as claimed in Claim 1 further comprising an external collar to be initially secured to the steel cable by a threaded fastener.

3. A wire stop as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the central opening is tapered and outer surfaces of the plurality of cable engaging wedges are tapered.

4. A wire stop as claimed in Claim 3 wherein the plurality of cable engaging wedges comprises two such wedges.

5. A wire stop as claimed in Claim 3 wherein the plurality of cable engaging wedges collectively have a generally frustoconical shape.

6. A wire stop for use with a multi-strand steel cable, the wire stop comprising:

an outer body with a tapered opening extending therethrough;

a tapered inner body being sized and configured to be received in and cooperate with the tapered opening in the outer body; and

wherein a multi-strand steel cable can be partially unraveled and the individual strands of the steel cable can be threaded between the inner body and the outer body, and wherein upon the application of tensile force on the steel cable, the steel cable can be held fast by the wire stop.

7. A wire stop as claimed in Claim 6 wherein the tapered inner body has a central bore extending therethrough for receiving a strand of the multi-strand steel cable therein and wherein a single strand of the steel cable can be threaded through the central bore in the tapered inner body and the remaining strands can be threaded between the inner body and the outer body.

8. A wire stop as claimed in Claim 6 wherein the tapered inner body has a frustoconical shape and the tapered opening in the outer body has a similar taper.

9. A wire stop for use with a multi-strand steel cable, the wire stop comprising;

a ferrule having a central bore extending therethrough for receiving a steel cable therein; and

the ferrule having a plurality of threaded fasteners threaded therein and extending toward the central bore for securing the steel cable within the central bore.

10. A wire stop as claimed in Claim 9 wherein the plurality of threaded fasteners comprises three threaded fasteners.

11. A wire stop as claimed in Claim 9 wherein the plurality of threaded fasteners comprises three setscrews.

12. A wire stop as claimed in Claim 9 wherein the threaded fasteners are oriented at an oblique angle relative to the central bore.

13. A wire stop as claimed in Claim 9 wherein the threaded fasteners are oriented to be perpendicular to the central bore.